

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NSCE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 (ISO) W
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R 172330Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0287

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT CAIRO

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UN XF

SUBJ: EBAN'S REMARKS ON ME

FOLLOWING ARE VOA REP'S NOTES ON PART OF ISRAELI
FONMIN ABBA EBAN'S REMARKS TO UN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION
AT LUNCHEON OCT 17:

QUOTE: EGYPT AND SYRIA HAD AN ALTERNATIVE TO BEGIN
SHOOTING AT ISRAEL ON OCT 6. HAVING MAINTAINED AND RESPECTED
THE CEASEFIRE FOR MANY YEARS, THEY COULD HAVE CONTINUED TO
RESPECT IT FOR ANOTHER FEW WEEKS. THERE WAS A CONCRETE
NEGOTIATING POSSIBILITY OPEN TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVT JUST AS
WELL AS THE ISRAELI GOVT. IN THE WEEK PRECEDING THIS RECOURSE
(THE SHOOTING) TO MASSIVE VIOLENCE, IT WAS SUGGESTED TO EACH
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OF US BY SECY KISSINGER THAT AT A CERTAIN DATE IN NOVEMBER--

THAT IS TO SAY AFTER WHAT WAS PLANNED TO BE ISRAELI'S ELECTION--WE SHOULD FIND OURSELVES HERE AGAIN IN THIS CITY IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH HIM HOW TO PRODUCE A COURSE OF PROCEDURE OR SOME SITUATION WHICH WOULD LEAD TO ACCOMMODATION AND TO NEGOTIATION.

IN DESCRIBING THE IDEA, I DON'T WANT TO GO BEYOND WHAT THE AUTHOR (KISSINGER) PUBLICLY SAID. THE IDEA WAS NOT TO GET ISRAEL AND EGYPT DISCUSSING AMERICAN PLANS OR ANYBODY ELSE'S PLANS BUT TO CREATE A CONTEXT IN WHICH THEY WOULD FIND THEMSELVES EXCHANGING IDEAS, PLANS OR PROPOSALS WITH EACH OTHER. THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO ASSUMPTION THEN THAT THE INITIATIVE WAS REJECTED. THERE WAS NO SUCH INDICATION. THERE WAS SOME INDICATION BEFORE AND DURING OUR TALKS THAT EGYPT WAS INTERESTED. WHATEVER IT MIGHT THINK ABOUT THE US IN TERMS OF AMERICAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS, I BELIEVE EGYPT MAY BELIEVE THAT IS THE REAL FOCUS AT WHICH SOME KIND OF EVOLUTION COULD COME IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF AMERICAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS. I BELIEVE THEY FELT THAT SECY KISSINGER WAS NOT WITHOUT EXPERIENCE AND SOME ACHIEVEMENTS IN CREATING CONDITIONS OF DIALOGUE IN CONFLICTS WHERE THERE HAD BEEN COMPLETE ABSENCE OF DIALOGUE BEFORE.

THIS WAS THE GENERAL IMPACT OF WHAT WAS SAID IN THEIR PRESENCE AND WHAT THEY SAID TO OTHER DELEGATIONS. THEREFORE, THERE WAS A PROSPECT THAT IN NOVEMBER--I DON'T SAY THAT WE WOULD BE TALKING WITHOUT A PEACE TREATY--BUT THAT WE WOULD SERIOUSLY BE TALKING ABOUT HOW TO GET A NEGOTIATING PROCESS GOING. THAT WAS THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE 5TH OF OCTOBER AND ONE CANNOT THEREFORE IGNORE THE FACT THAT THEY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK AND THEY CHOSE TO SHOOT. UNQUOTE. BENNETT

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